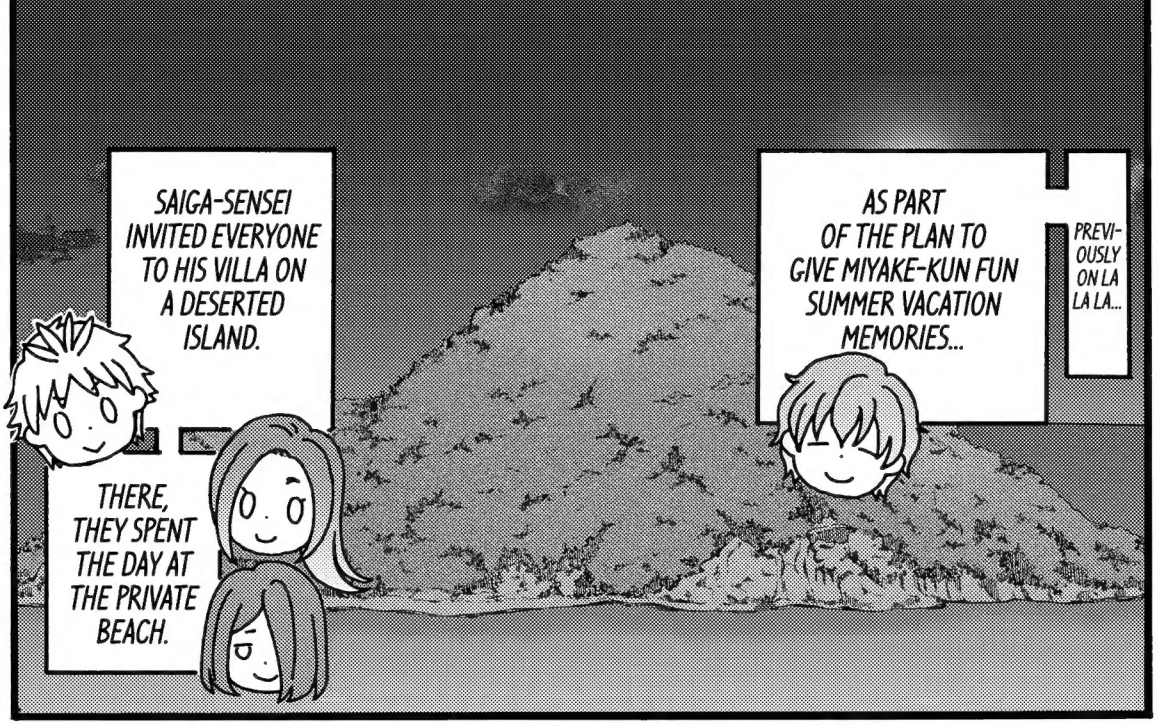
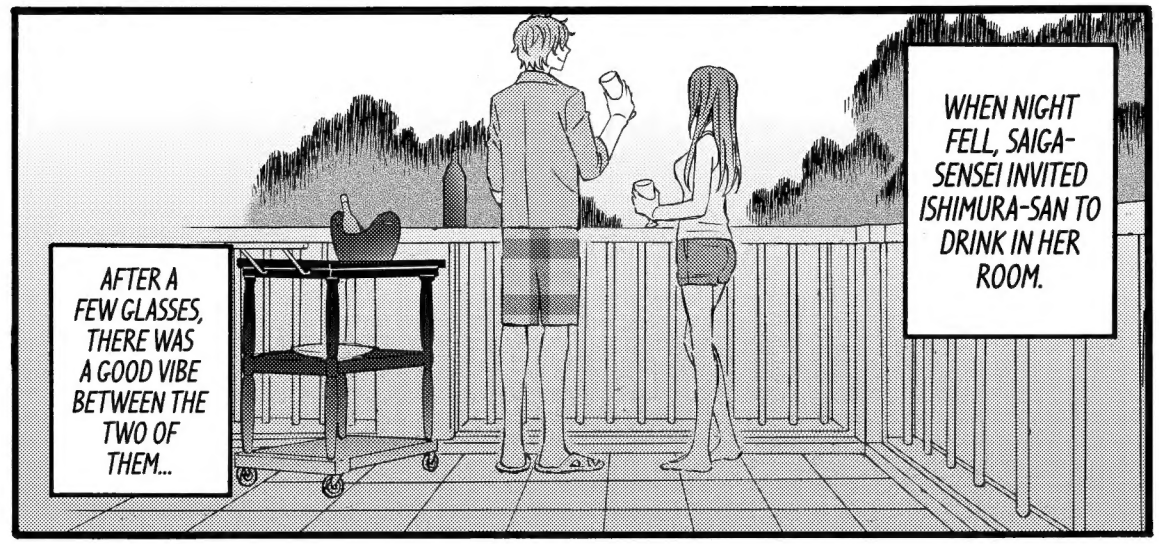
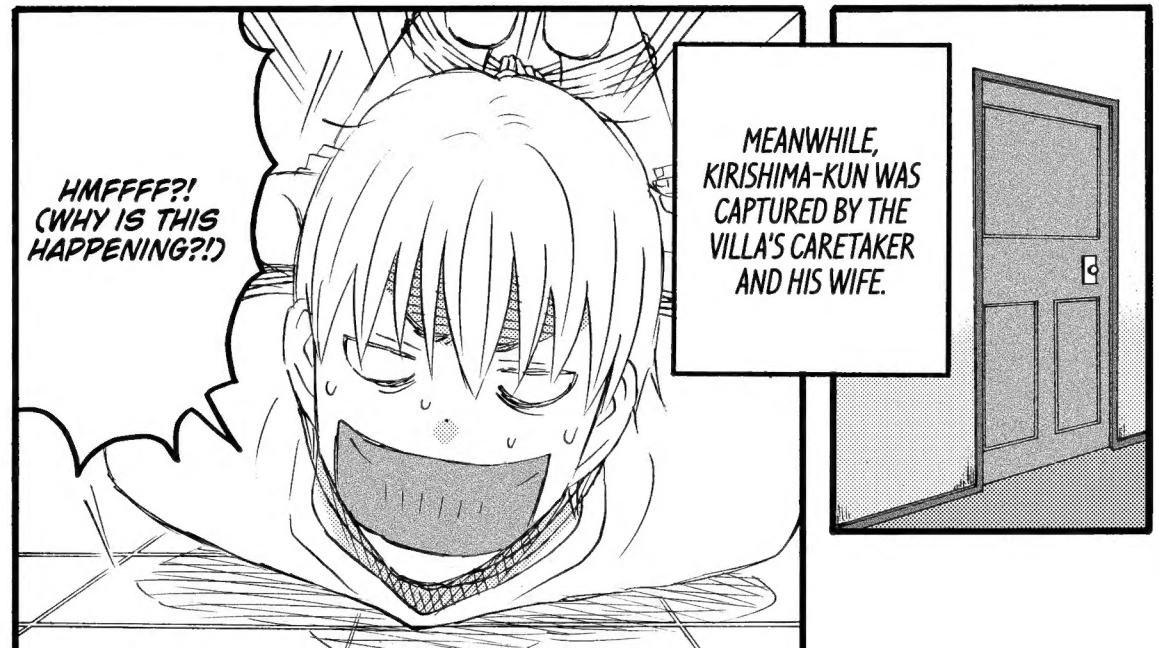
Chapter 49: Ishimura-san and Saiga-sensei, a Night for the Two of Them

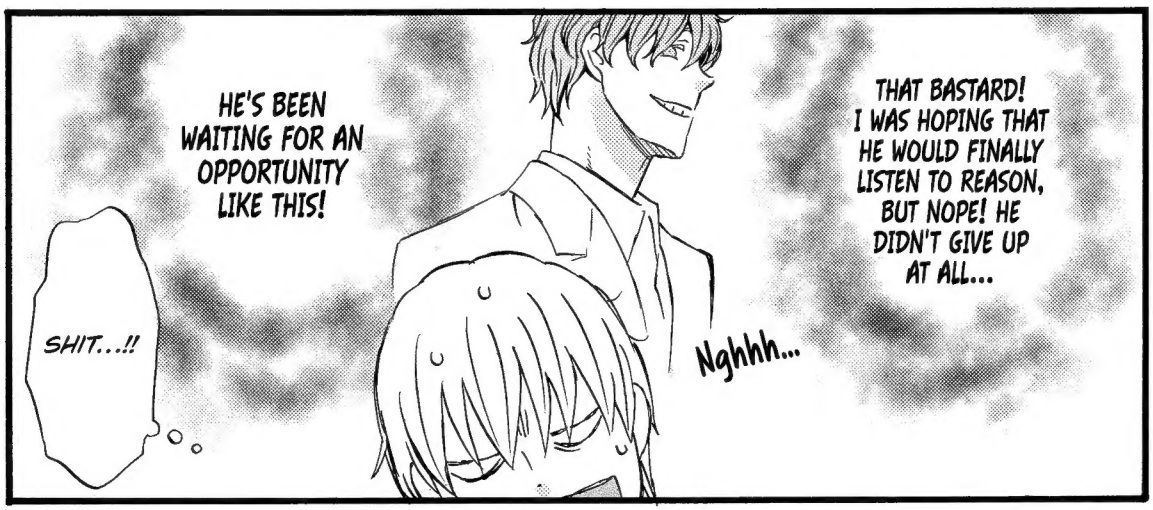

PREVIOUSLY ON LA LA LA...
AS PART OF THE PLAN TO GIVE MIYAKE-KUN FUN SUMMER VACATION MEMORIES...
SAIGA-SENSEI INVITED EVERYONE TO HIS VILLA ON A DESERTED ISLAND.
THERE, THEY SPENT THE DAY AT THE PRIVATE BEACH.

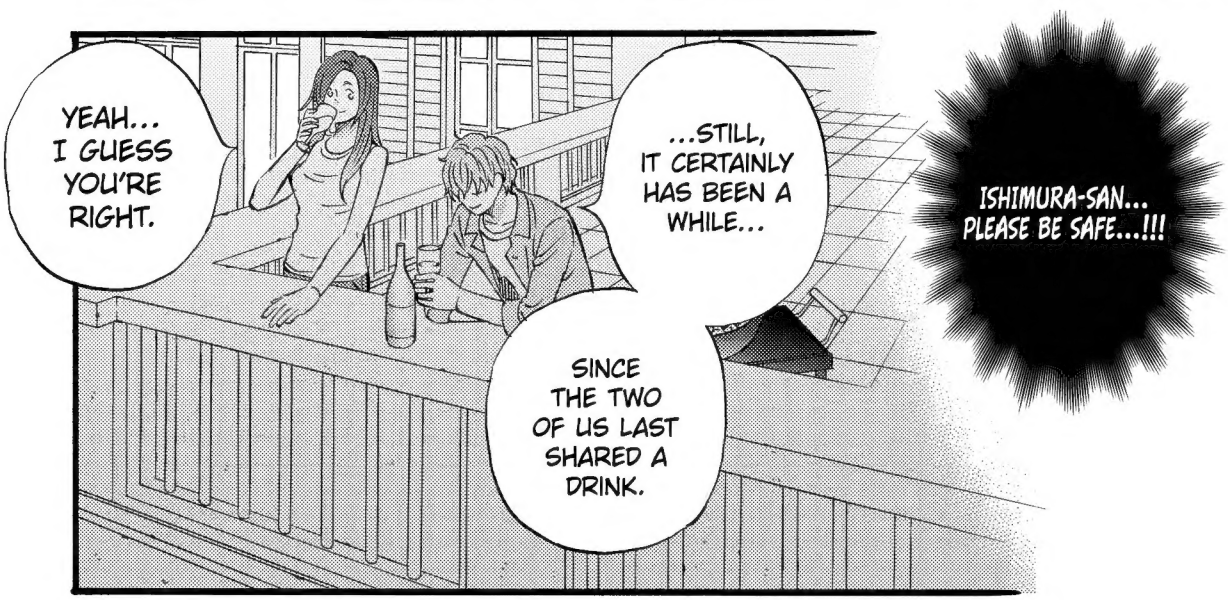

WHEN NIGHT FELL, SAIGA-SENSEI INVITED ISHIMURA-SAN TO DRINK IN HER ROOM.
AFTER A FEW GLASSES, THERE WAS A GOOD VIBE BETWEEN THE TWO OF THEM...

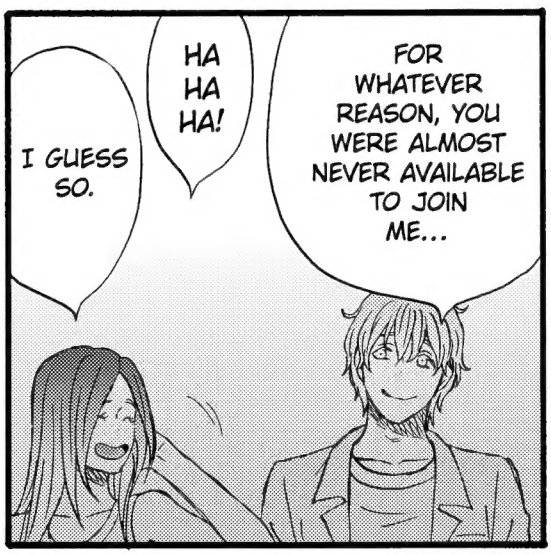

MEANWHILE, KIRISHIMA-KUN WAS CAPTURED BY THE VILLA'S CARETAKER AND HIS WIFE.
HMFFFF?! (WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?!)

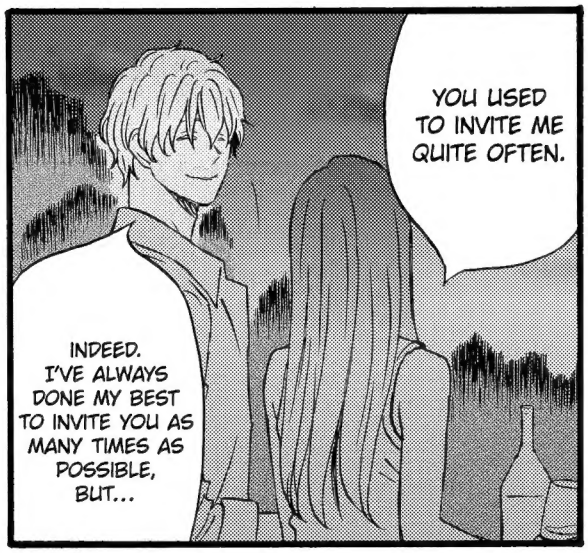
THIS IS FOR SHUUJI-SAMA'S SAKE. WE RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT YOU NOT INTERFERE...

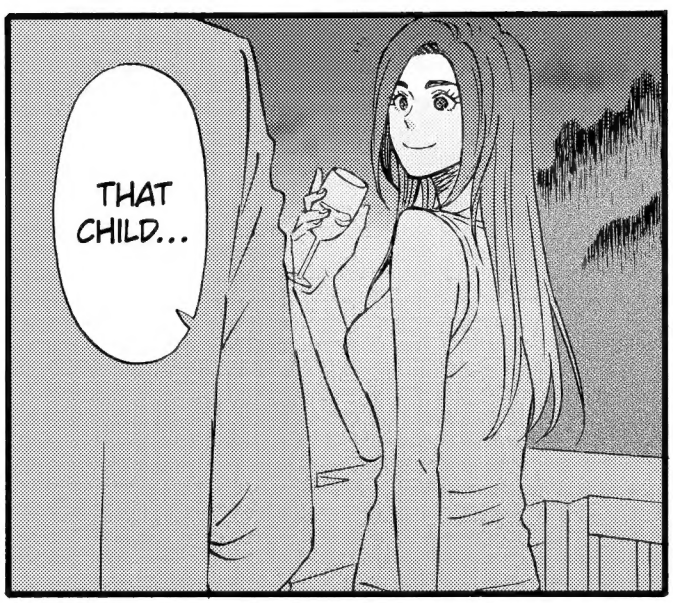
NOTHING BAD WILL HAPPEN AS LONG AS YOU KEEP QUIET...
NOW, NOW... PLEASE CALM DOWN, KIRISHIMA-SAMA.
Squirm
Squirm
HMFF! HMFFFF! HMFF! HMFFFF! HMFFF! HMFF!! (HOW CAN I POSSIBLY STAY CALM IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS?!)


HE'S BEEN WAITING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY LIKE THIS!
THAT BASTARD! I WAS HOPING THAT HE WOULD FINALLY LISTEN TO REASON, BUT NOPE! HE DIDN'T GIVE UP AT ALL...
SHIT...!!
Nghhh...

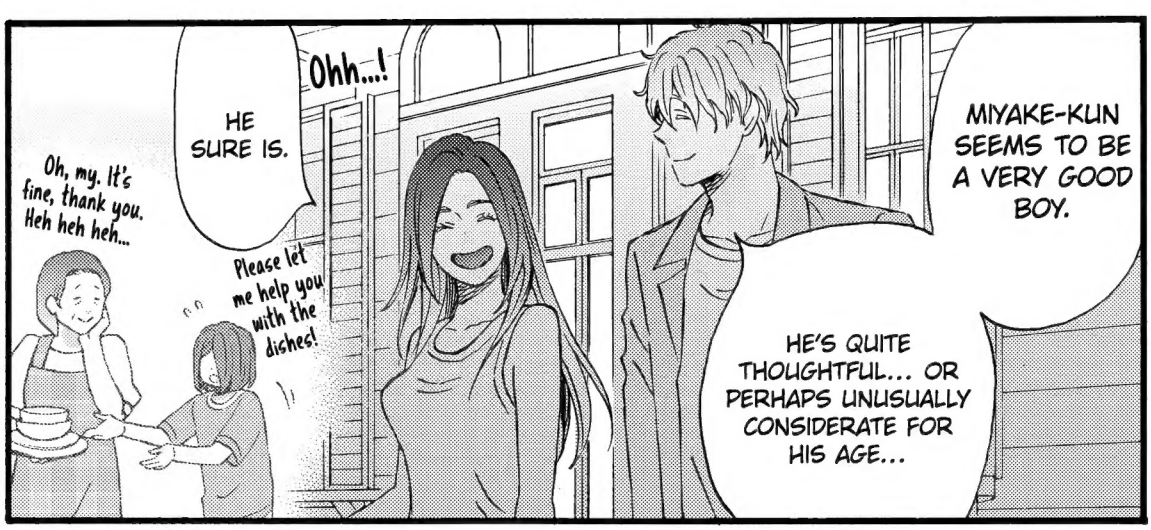

YEAH... I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
...STILL, IT CERTAINLY HAS BEEN A WHILE...
SINCE THE TWO OF US LAST SHARED A DRINK.
ISHIMURA-SAN... PLEASE BE SAFE...!!!

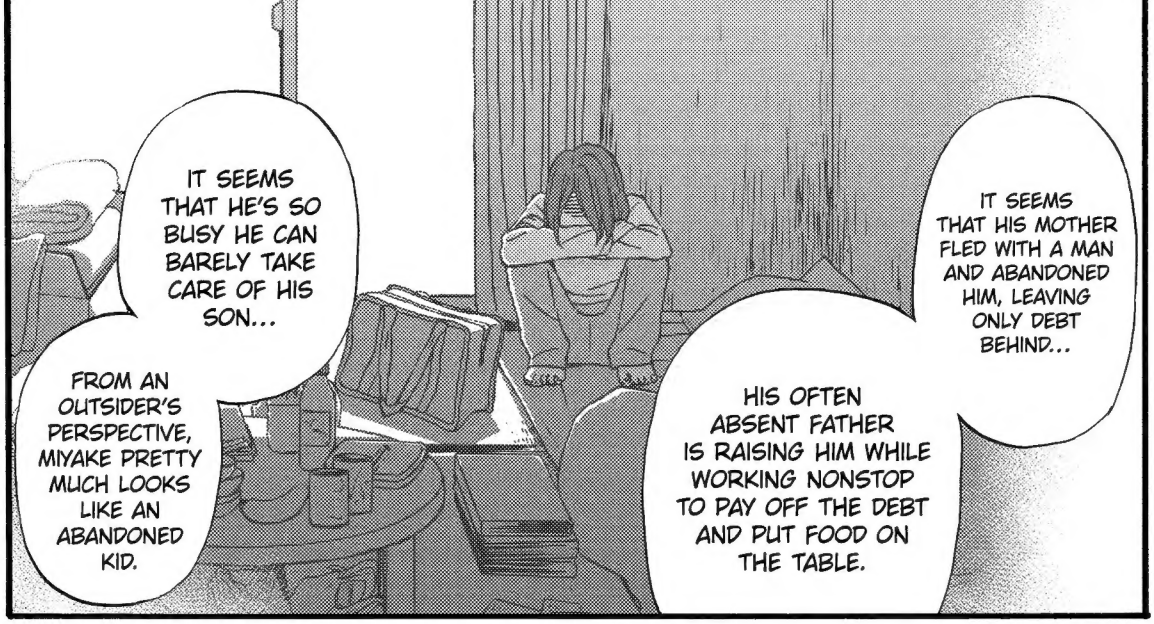

FOR WHATEVER REASON, YOU WERE ALMOST NEVER AVAILABLE TO JOIN ME...
HA HA HA!
I GUESS SO.

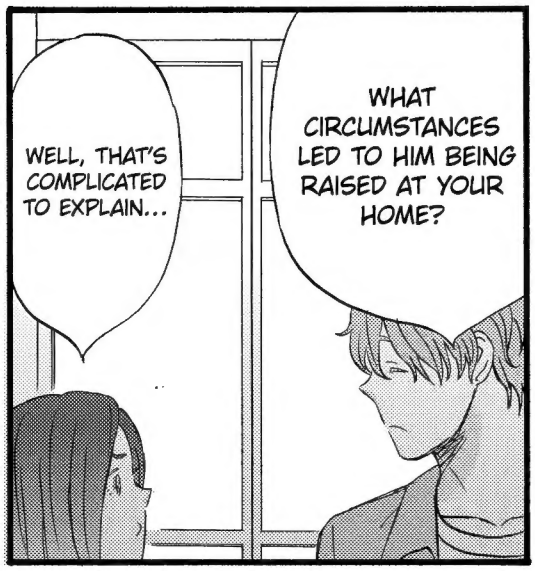

YOU USED TO INVITE ME QUITE OFTEN.
INDEED. I'VE ALWAYS DONE MY BEST TO INVITE YOU AS MANY TIMES AS POSSIBLE, BUT...

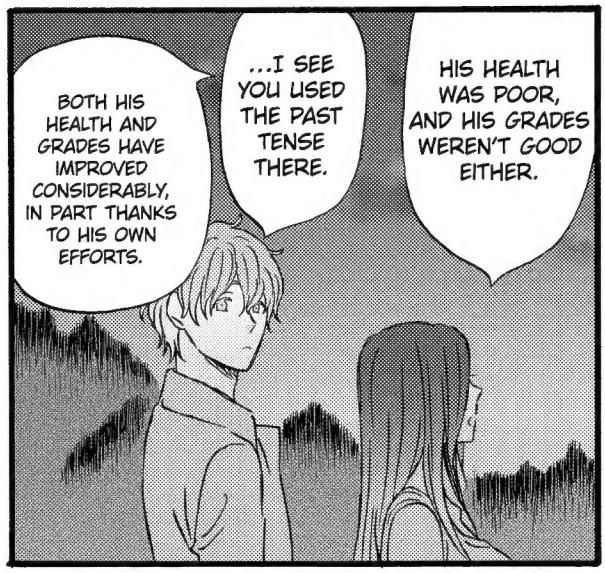

THAT CHILD...

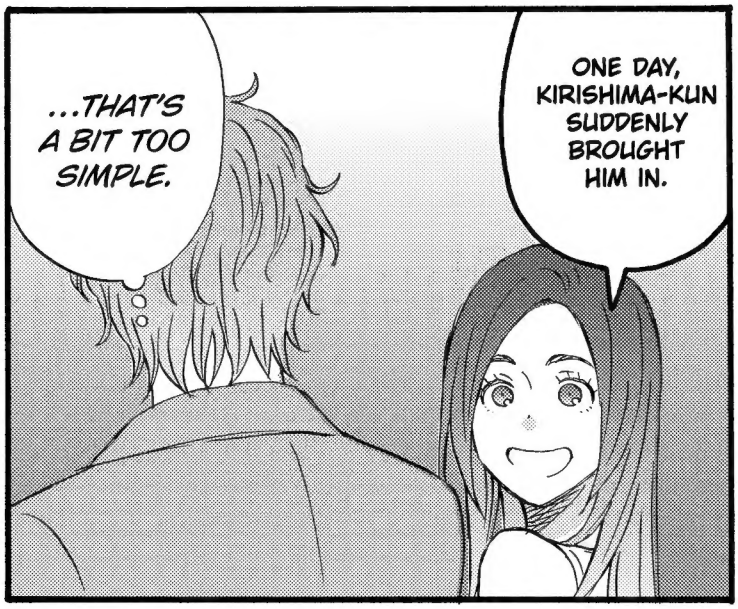
...

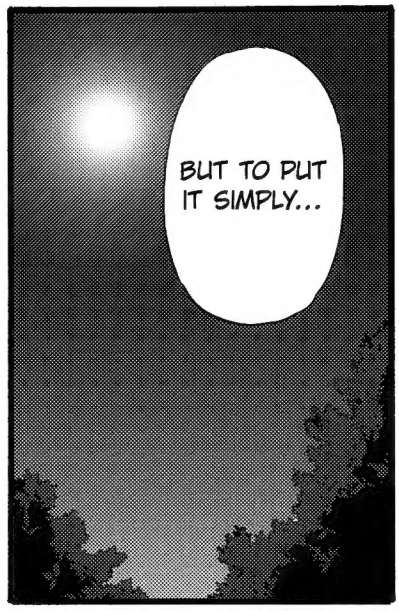

MIYAKE-KUN SEEMS TO BE A VERY GOOD BOY.
HE'S QUITE THOUGHTFUL... OR PERHAPS UNUSUALLY CONSIDERATE FOR HIS AGE...
Ohh...!
HE SURE IS.
Oh, my. It's fine, thank you. Heh heh heh...
Please let me help you with the dishes!

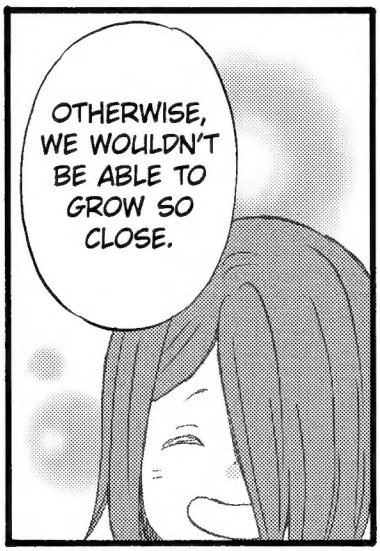

IT SEEMS THAT HE'S SO BUSY HE CAN BARELY TAKE CARE OF HIS SON...
FROM AN OUTSIDER'S PERSPECTIVE, MIYAKE PRETTY MUCH LOOKS LIKE AN ABANDONED KID.
IT SEEMS THAT HIS MOTHER FLED WITH A MAN AND ABANDONED HIM, LEAVING ONLY DEBT BEHIND...
HIS OFTEN ABSENT FATHER IS RAISING HIM WHILE WORKING NONSTOP TO PAY OFF THE DEBT AND PUT FOOD ON THE TABLE.

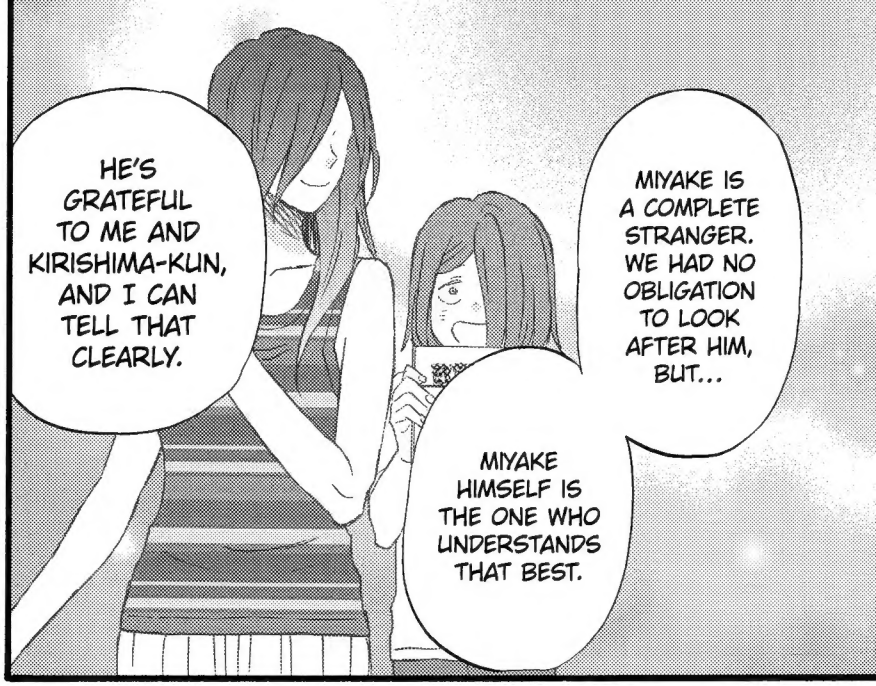

WELL, THAT'S COMPLICATED TO EXPLAIN...
WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES LED TO HIM BEING RAISED AT YOUR HOME?

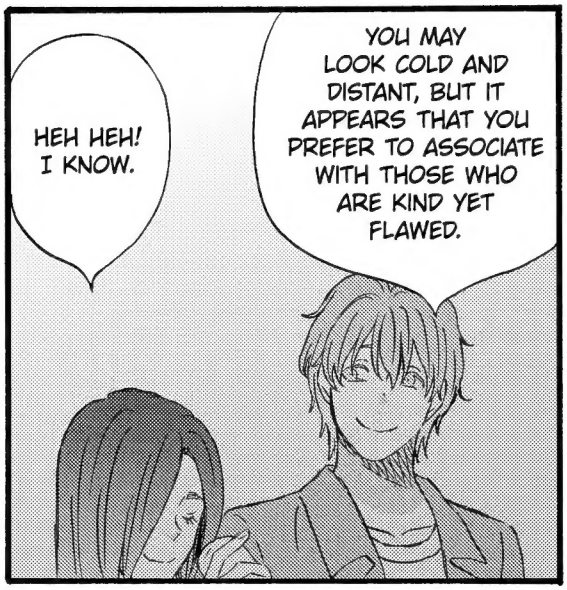

BOTH HIS HEALTH AND GRADES HAVE IMPROVED CONSIDERABLY, IN PART THANKS TO HIS OWN EFFORTS.
...I SEE YOU USED THE PAST TENSE THERE.
HIS HEALTH WAS POOR, AND HIS GRADES WEREN'T GOOD EITHER.

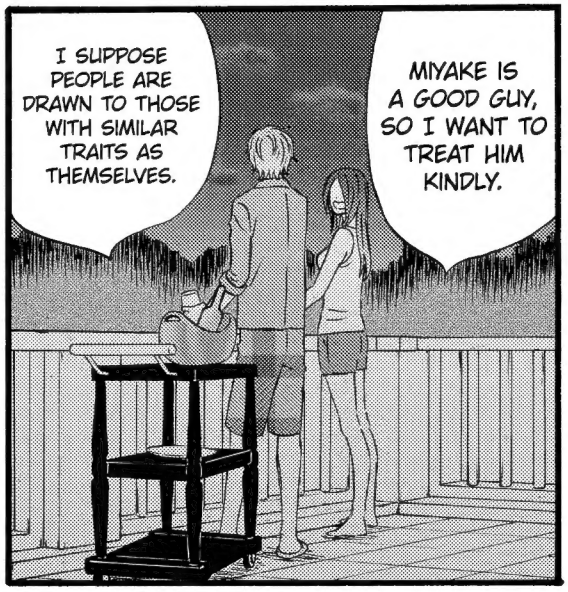

...THAT'S A BIT TOO SIMPLE.
ONE DAY, KIRISHIMA-KUN SUDDENLY BROUGHT HIM IN.


BUT TO PUT IT SIMPLY...

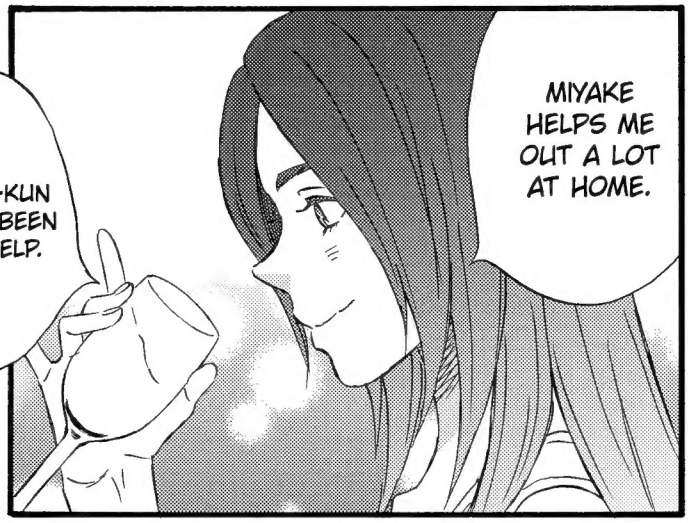

OTHERWISE, WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO GROW SO CLOSE.

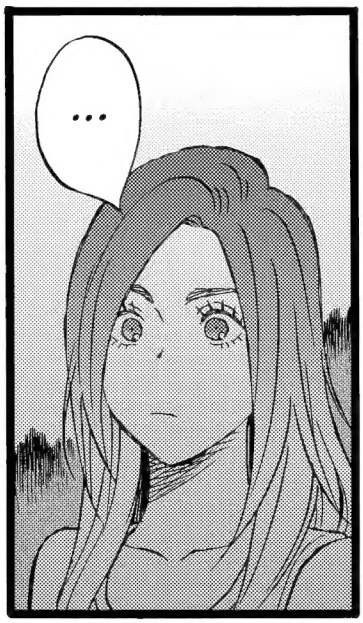

HE'S GRATEFUL TO ME AND KIRISHIMA-KUN, AND I CAN TELL THAT CLEARLY.
MIYAKE IS A COMPLETE STRANGER. WE HAD NO OBLIGATION TO LOOK AFTER HIM, BUT...
MIYAKE HIMSELF IS THE ONE WHO UNDERSTANDS THAT BEST.


YOU MAY LOOK COLD AND DISTANT, BUT IT APPEARS THAT YOU PREFER TO ASSOCIATE WITH THOSE WHO ARE KIND YET FLAWED.
HEH HEH! I KNOW.

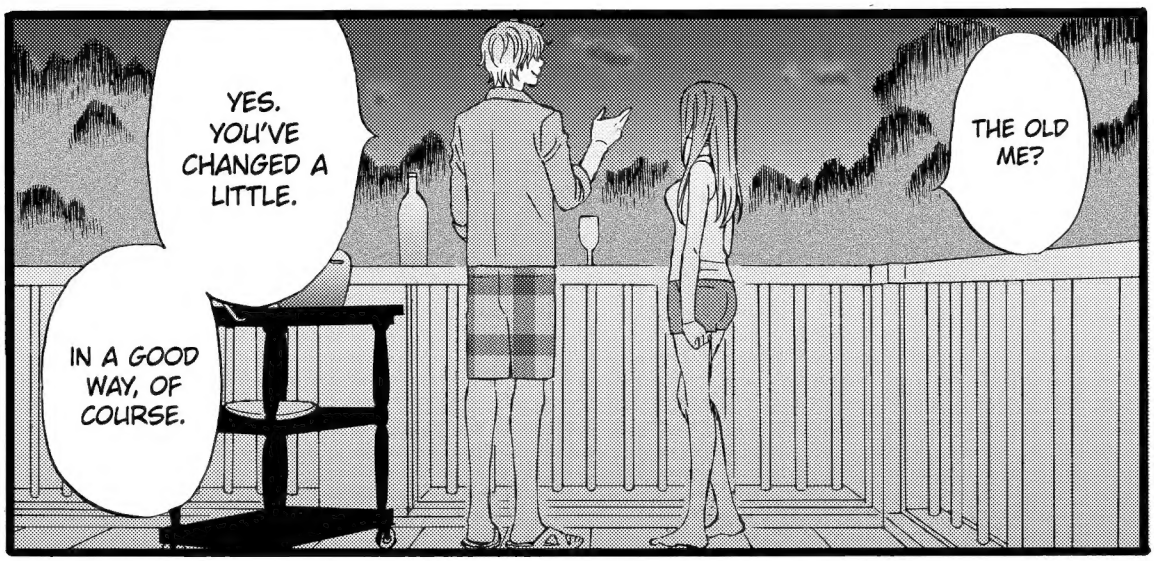

I SUPPOSE PEOPLE ARE DRAWN TO THOSE WITH SIMILAR TRAITS AS THEMSELVES.
MIYAKE IS A GOOD GUY, SO I WANT TO TREAT HIM KINDLY.

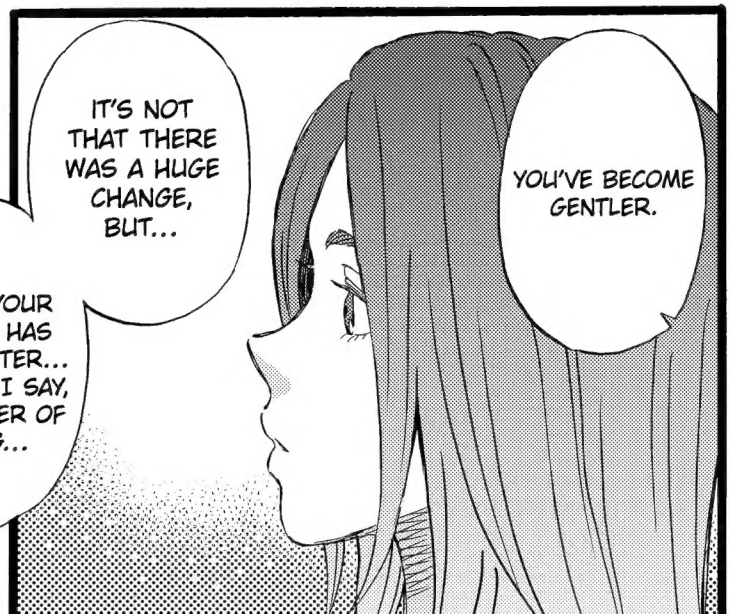
...
KIRISHIMA-KUN HAS ALSO BEEN A HUGE HELP.

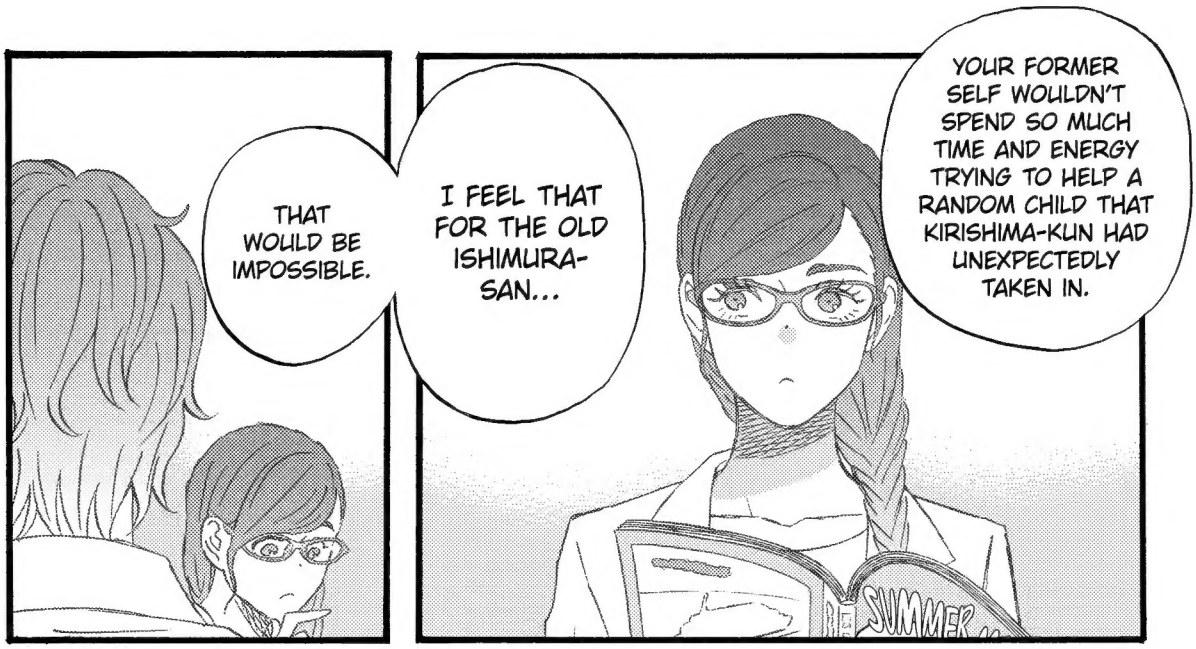

MIYAKE HELPS ME OUT A LOT AT HOME.

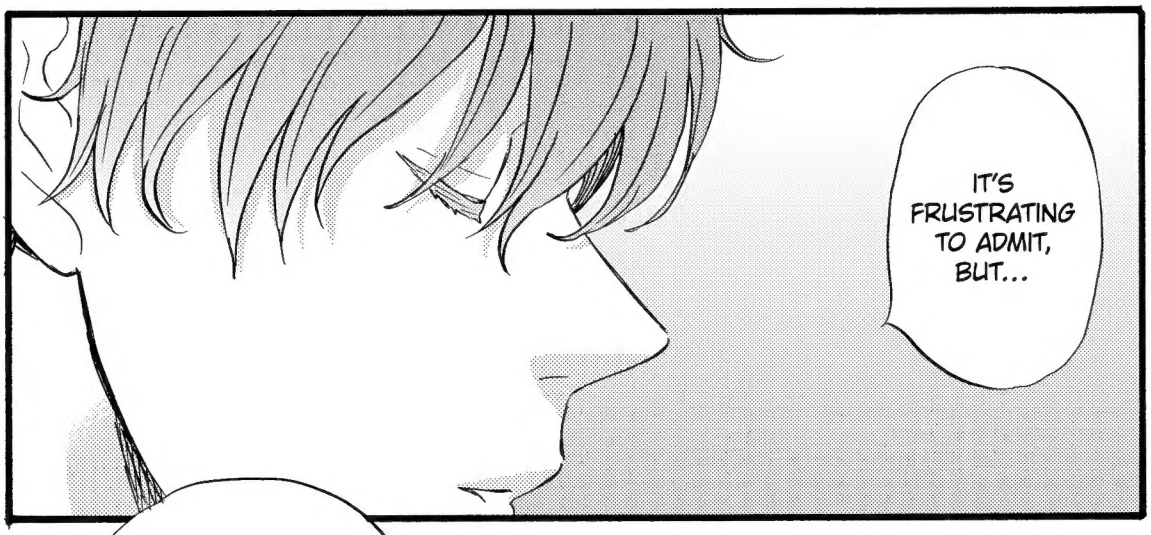

...

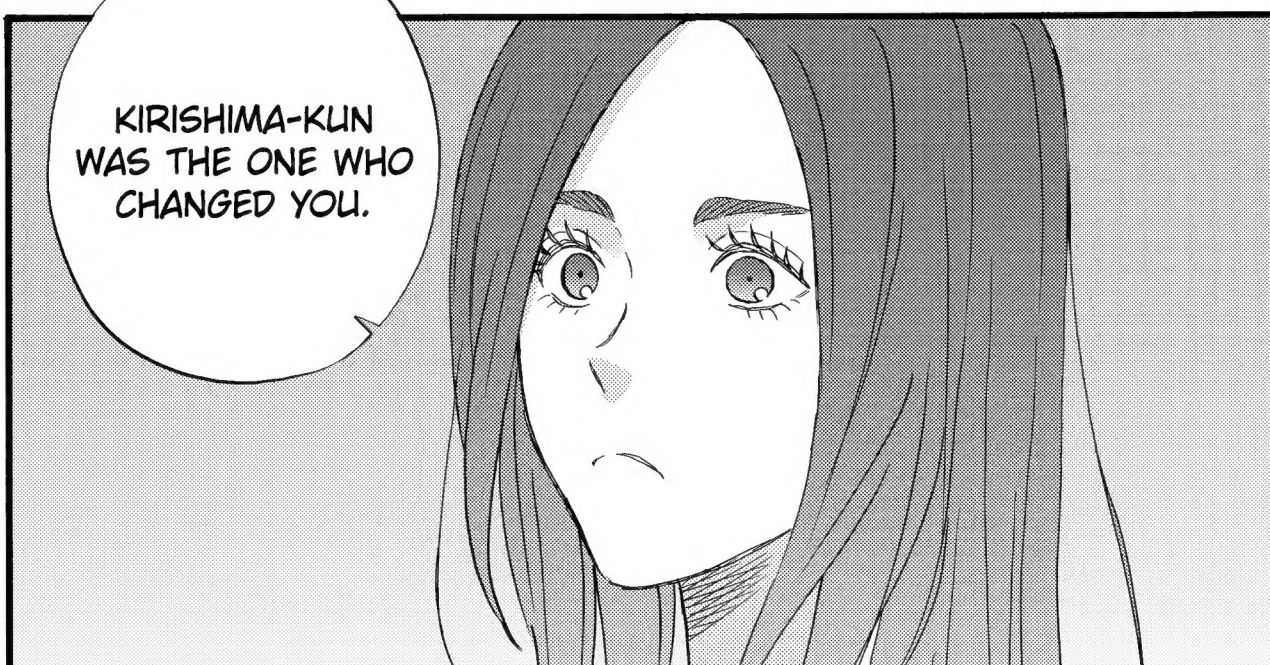
I DON'T THINK THE OLD ISHIMURA-SENSEI WOULD DO WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DOING.

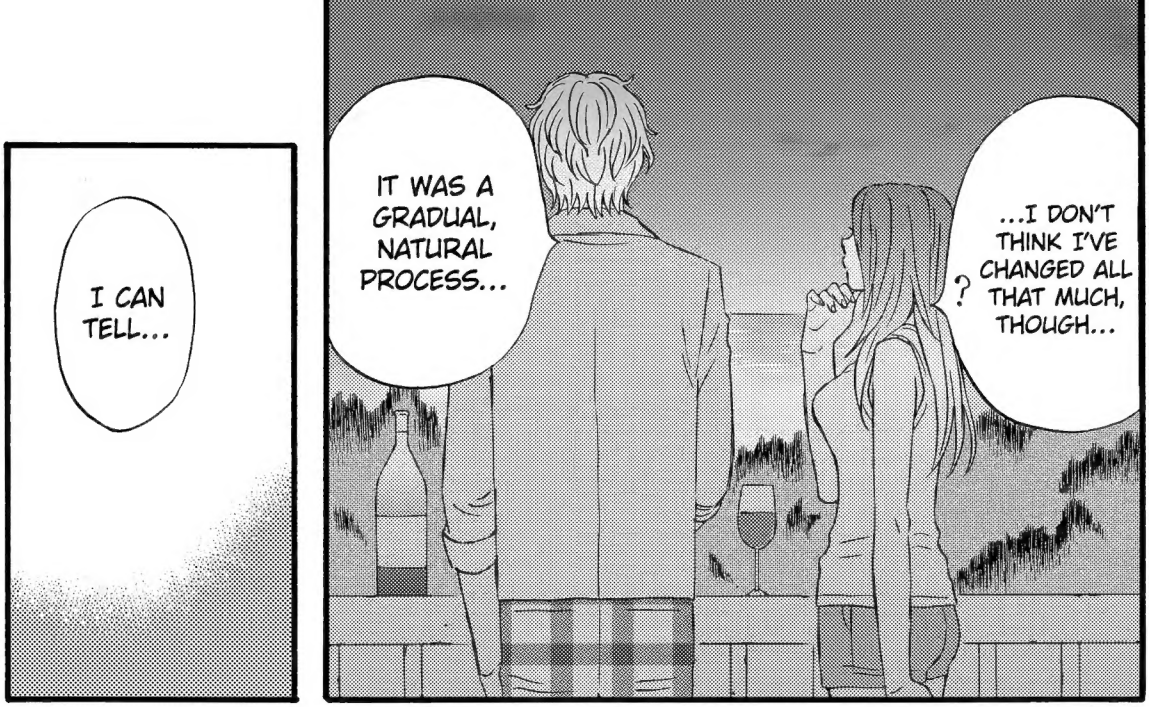

THE OLD ME?
YES. YOU'VE CHANGED A LITTLE.
IN A GOOD WAY, OF COURSE.

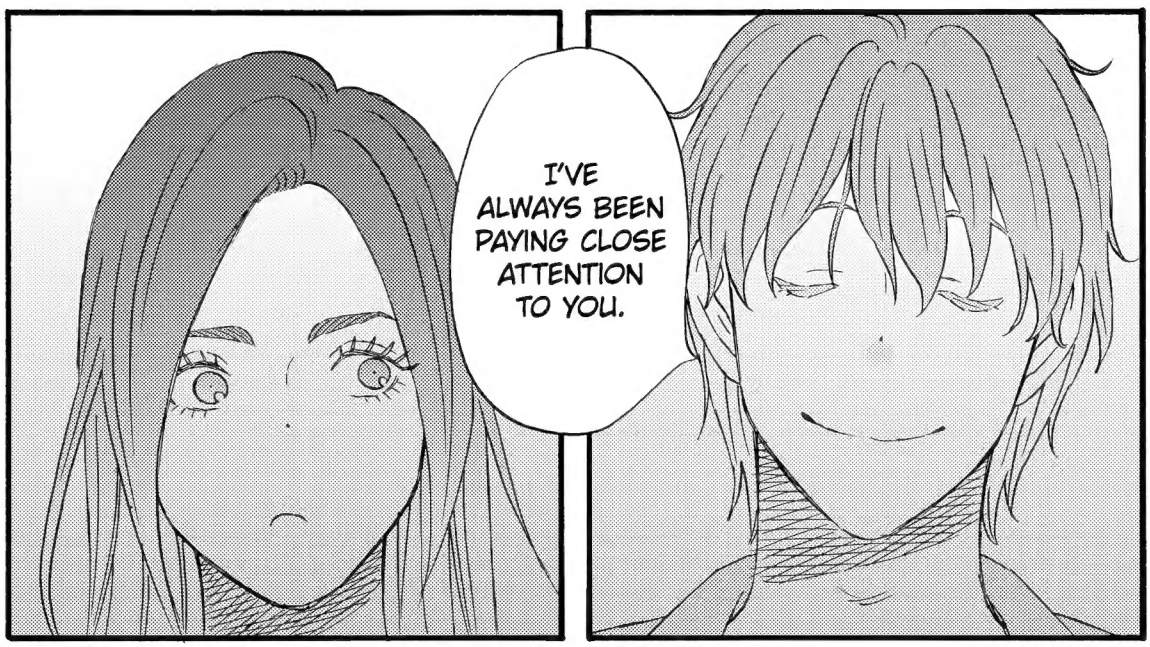

YOU'VE BECOME GENTLER.
IT'S NOT THAT THERE WAS A HUGE CHANGE, BUT...
IT'S AS IF YOUR DEMEANOR HAS GOTTEN SOFTER... OR SHOULD I SAY, YOUR MANNER OF SPEAKING...

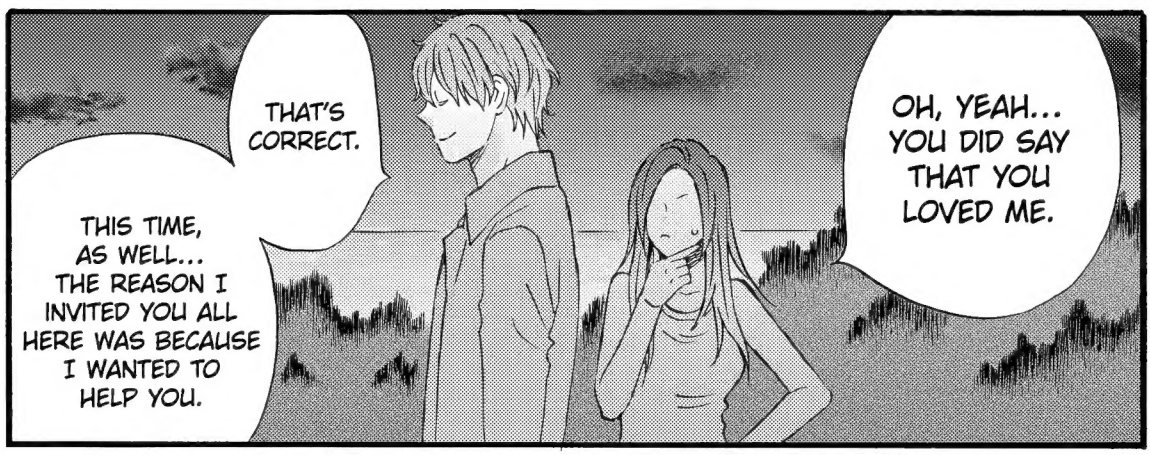

THAT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE.
I FEEL THAT FOR THE OLD ISHIMURA-SAN...
YOUR FORMER SELF WOULDN'T SPEND SO MUCH TIME AND ENERGY TRYING TO HELP A RANDOM CHILD THAT KIRISHIMA-KUN HAD UNEXPECTEDLY TAKEN IN.
SUMMER

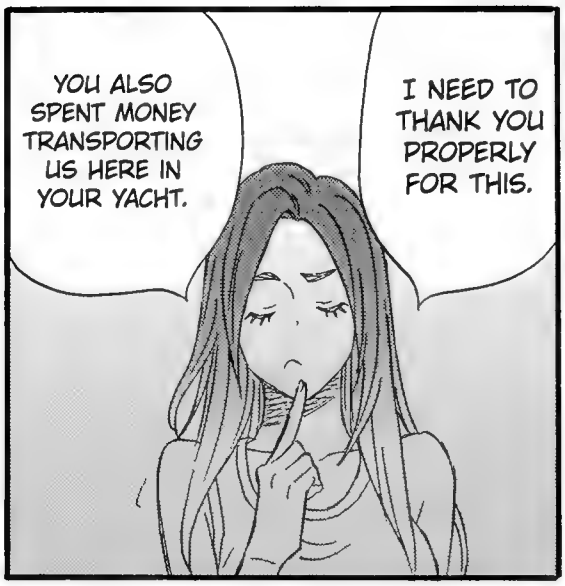

IT'S FRUSTRATING TO ADMIT, BUT...

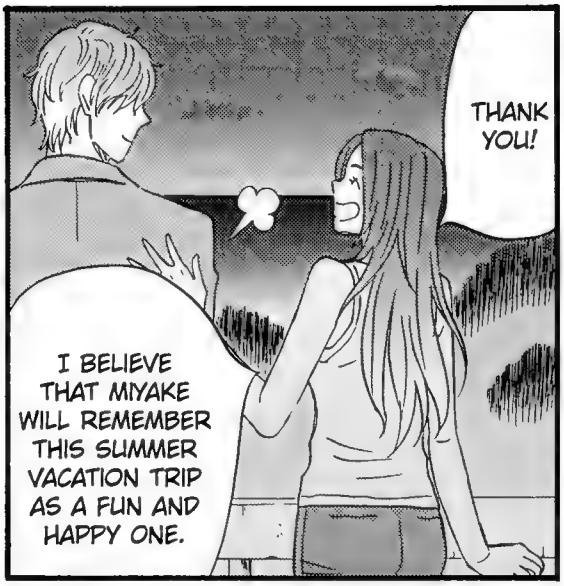

KIRISHIMA-KUN WAS THE ONE WHO CHANGED YOU.


I CAN TELL...
IT WAS A GRADUAL, NATURAL PROCESS...
...I DON'T THINK I'VE CHANGED ALL THAT MUCH, THOUGH...
?

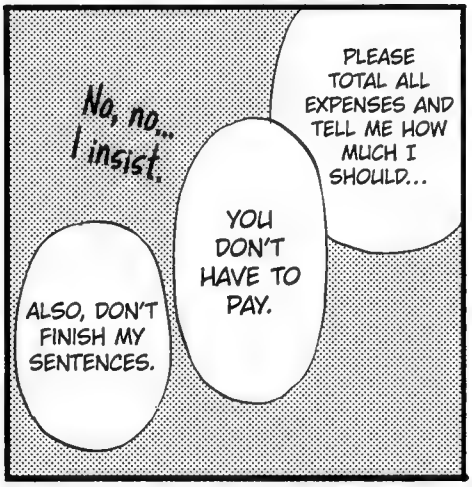

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN PAYING CLOSE ATTENTION TO YOU.


THAT'S CORRECT.
THIS TIME, AS WELL... THE REASON I INVITED YOU ALL HERE WAS BECAUSE I WANTED TO HELP YOU.
OH, YEAH... YOU DID SAY THAT YOU LOVED ME.


YOU ALSO SPENT MONEY TRANSPORTING US HERE IN YOUR YACHT.
I NEED TO THANK YOU PROPERLY FOR THIS.

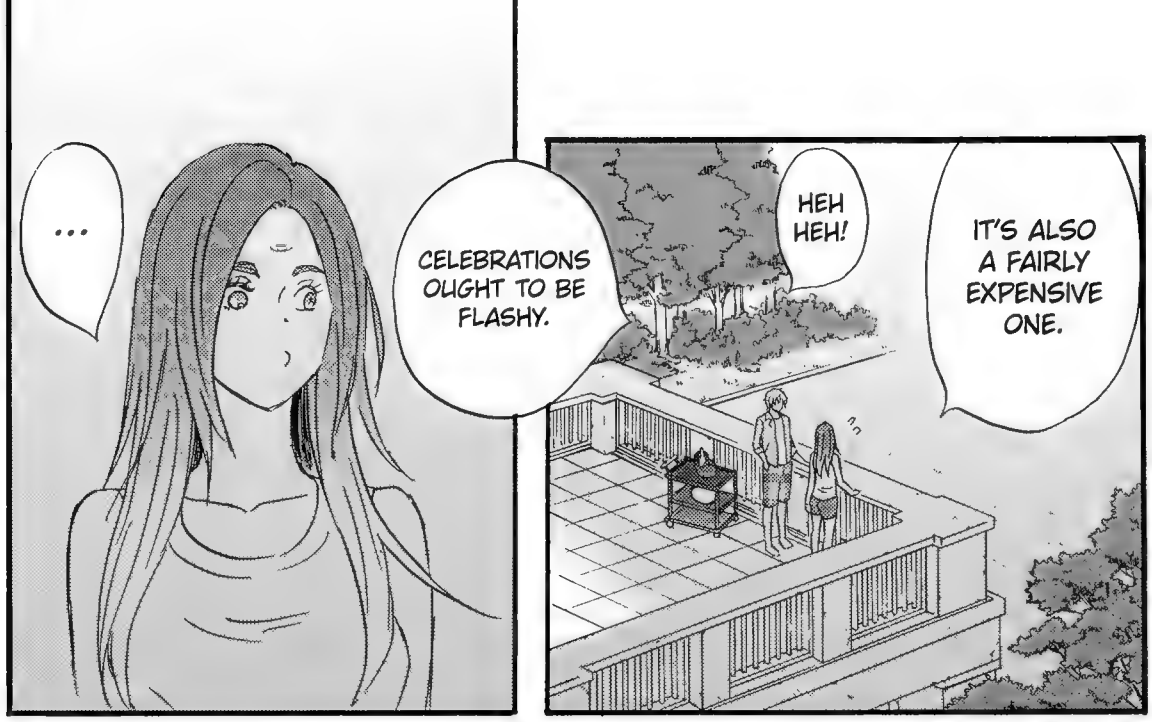

THANK YOU!
I BELIEVE THAT MIYAKE WILL REMEMBER THIS SUMMER VACATION TRIP AS A FUN AND HAPPY ONE.

...THEN...

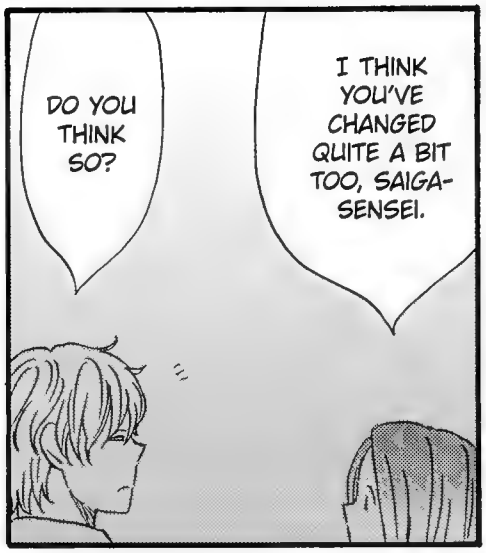

PLEASE TOTAL ALL EXPENSES AND TELL ME HOW MUCH I SHOULD...
No, no... I insist.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO PAY.
ALSO, DON'T FINISH MY SENTENCES.

A LATE WEDDING GIFT, THAT IS...

PLEASE CONSIDER THIS A GIFT TO COMMEMORATE YOUR MARRIAGE TO KIRISHIMA-KUN.

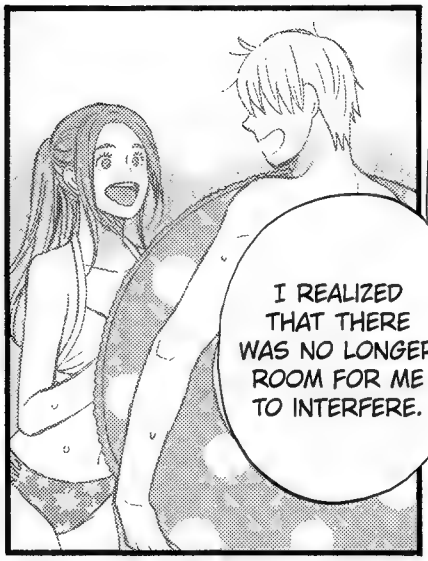

...
CELEBRATIONS OUGHT TO BE FLASHY.
HEH HEH!
IT'S ALSO A FAIRLY EXPENSIVE ONE.

...
YOU ALWAYS MADE IT VERY CLEAR HOW OPPOSED YOU WERE TO MY MARRIAGE TO KIRISHIMA-KUN. BUT NOW...
YOU'RE GIVING ME A WEDDING GIFT?


DO YOU THINK SO?
I THINK YOU'VE CHANGED QUITE A BIT TOO, SAIGA-SENSEI.

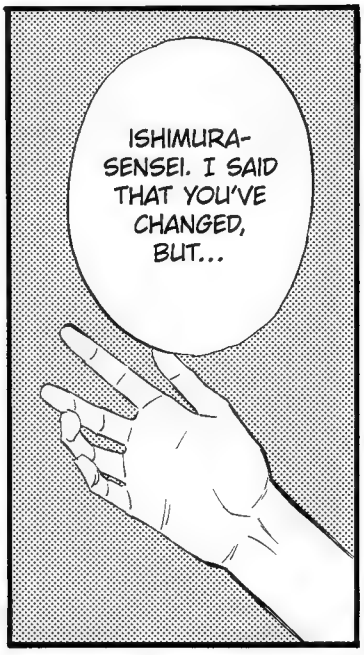
Yaaaay! ☆
Heh heh heh...
HONESTLY... I NEVER THOUGHT THAT AN UNREMARKABLE MAN LIKE HIM...
WOULD BE CAPABLE OF STEALING YOU FROM ME...
Ordinary

SO I NEVER CONSIDERED THAT MAN MUCH OF A THREAT...
I BELIEVED IT WAS EXCLUSIVELY A MATTER BETWEEN YOU AND I...
I SUPPOSE I WAS TOO FOCUSED ON HOW TO WIN YOU OVER.

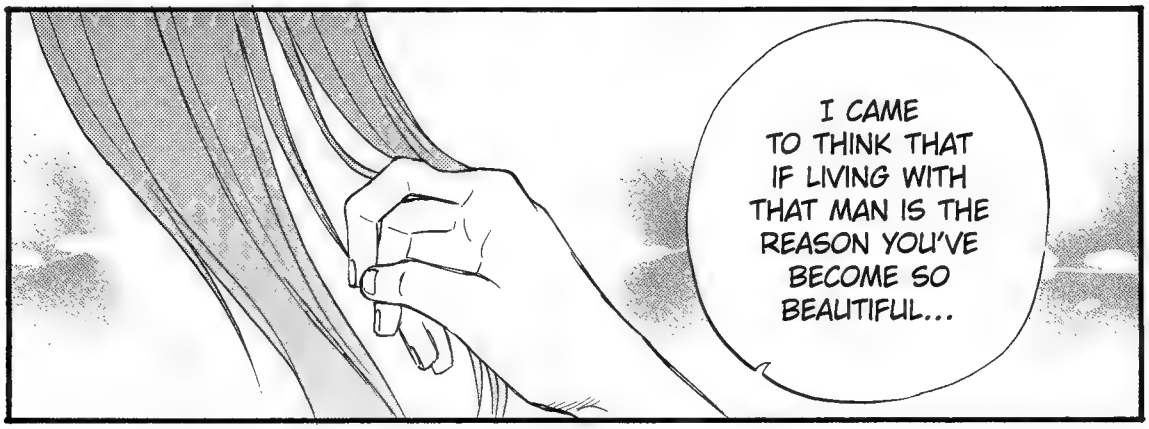

I REALIZED THAT THERE WAS NO LONGER ROOM FOR ME TO INTERFERE.

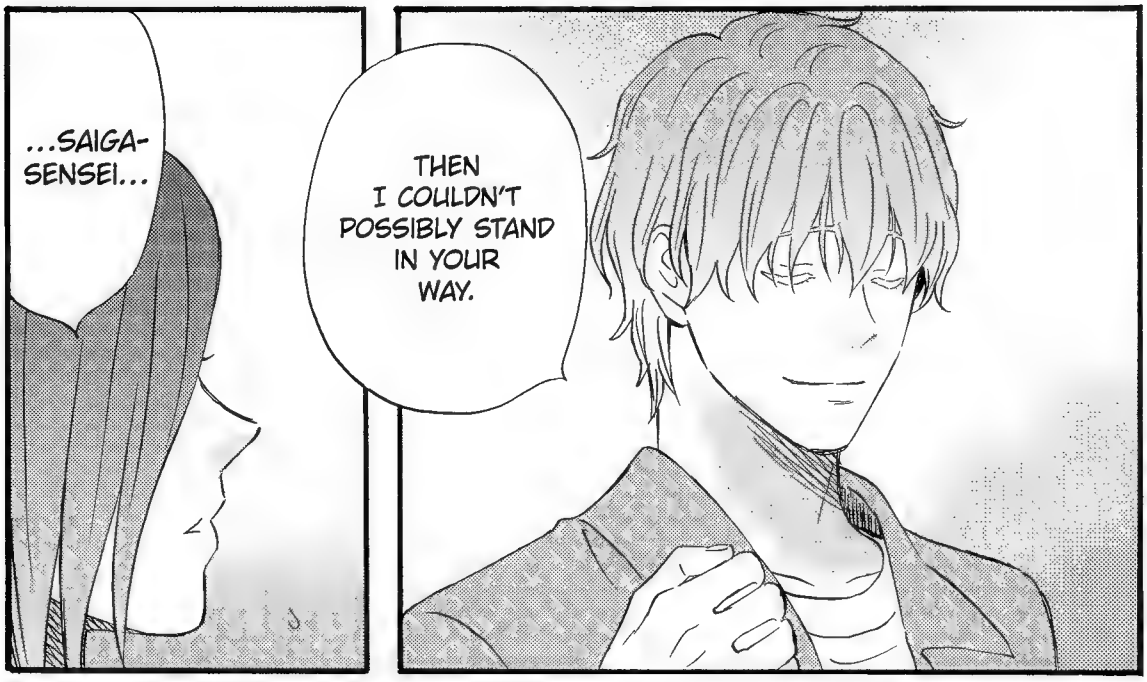
YOU BEGAN WORKING TOGETHER, AND I COULD TELL YOU'D GROWN INTO A WONDERFUL AND GENUINE MARRIED COUPLE.
BUT BEFORE LONG...

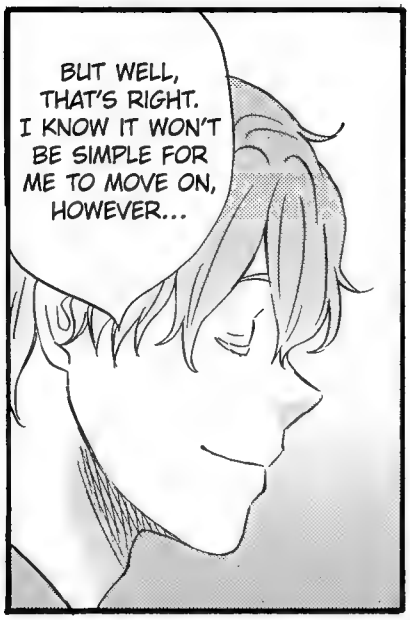
WHAT HAS TRULY CHANGED THE MOST ABOUT YOU IS YOUR FACE.

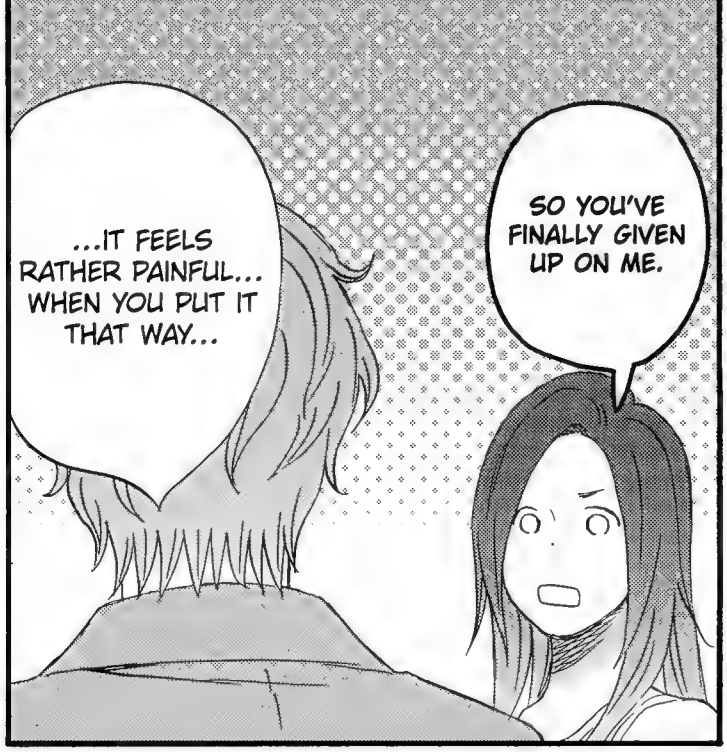

ISHIMURA-SENSEI. I SAID THAT YOU'VE CHANGED, BUT...

YOUR EXPRESSION...
...HAS BECOME VERY, VERY GENTLE.

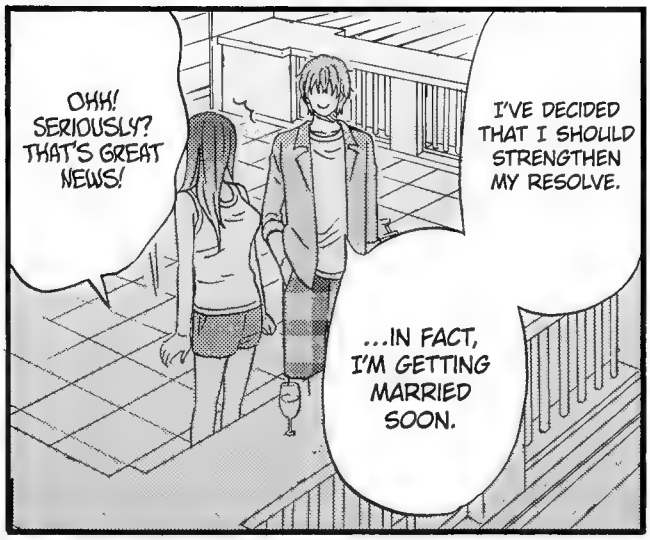

I CAME TO THINK THAT IF LIVING WITH THAT MAN IS THE REASON YOU'VE BECOME SO BEAUTIFUL...


THEN I COULDN'T POSSIBLY STAND IN YOUR WAY.
...SAIGA-SENSEI...


BUT WELL, THAT'S RIGHT. I KNOW IT WON'T BE SIMPLE FOR ME TO MOVE ON, HOWEVER...


...IT FEELS RATHER PAINFUL... WHEN YOU PUT IT THAT WAY...
SO YOU'VE FINALLY GIVEN UP ON ME.

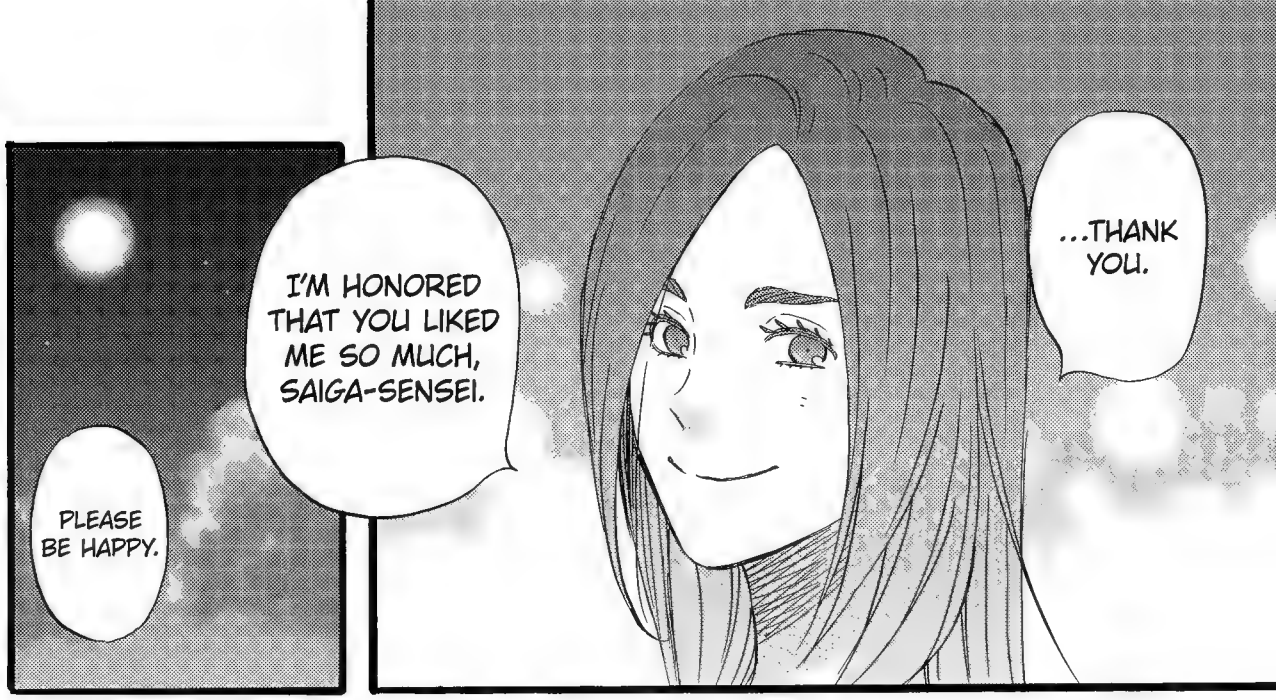
YOU'VE FINALLY MET SOMEONE GOOD. I'M GLAD!
CONGRATS!
...


OHH! SERIOUSLY? THAT'S GREAT NEWS!
I'VE DECIDED THAT I SHOULD STRENGTHEN MY RESOLVE.
...IN FACT, I'M GETTING MARRIED SOON.

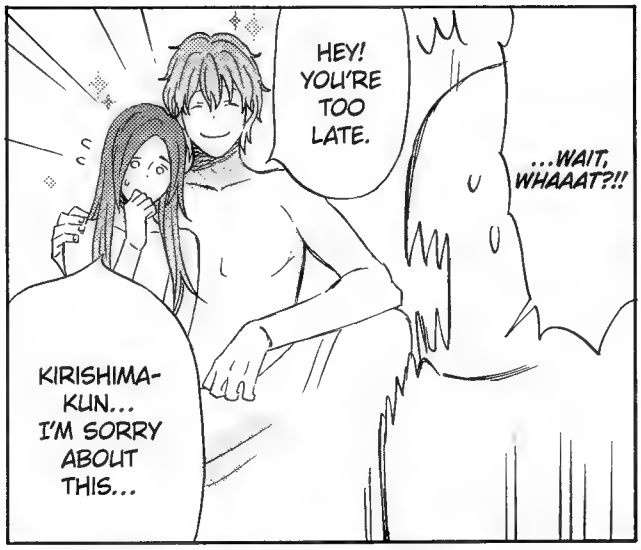
I SEE.
SHE'S SOMEONE MY UNCLE INTRODUCED ME TO.
IN THE END, I LET MY PARENTS RUSH ME INTO IT.

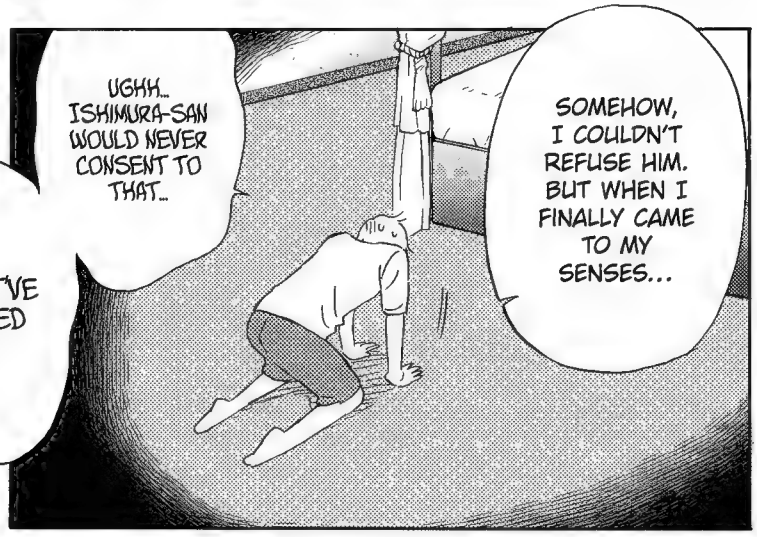
OH?
BUT I CAN'T SAY IT WAS FATE OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT THAT BROUGHT US TOGETHER.

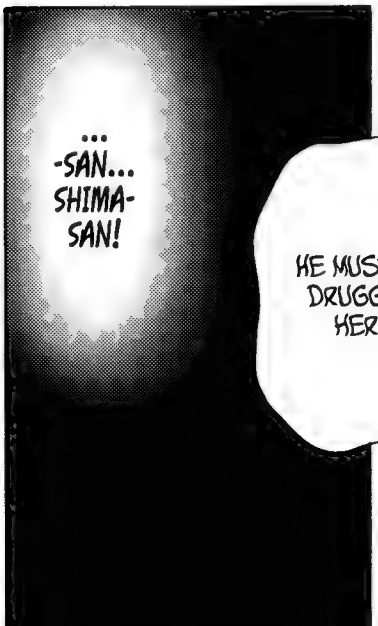
...
IT'S A GREAT THING THAT YOU'VE MET SOMEONE YOU THINK MIGHT BE THE ONE.
WELL... WHATEVER THE REASON...
I HAD ALREADY MET THAT PERSON A LONG TIME AGO...
I TRULY LOVED YOU, ISHIMURA-SENSEI.
I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER MEET A BETTER WOMAN THAN YOU.


...THANK YOU.
I'M HONORED THAT YOU LIKED ME SO MUCH, SAIGA-SENSEI.
PLEASE BE HAPPY.

...ISHIMURA-SAN, ARE YOU OKAY?!
Blam
I CAME TO YOUR RESCUE!!


HEY! YOU'RE TOO LATE.
...WAIT, WHAAAT?!!
KIRISHIMA-KUN... I'M SORRY ABOUT THIS...

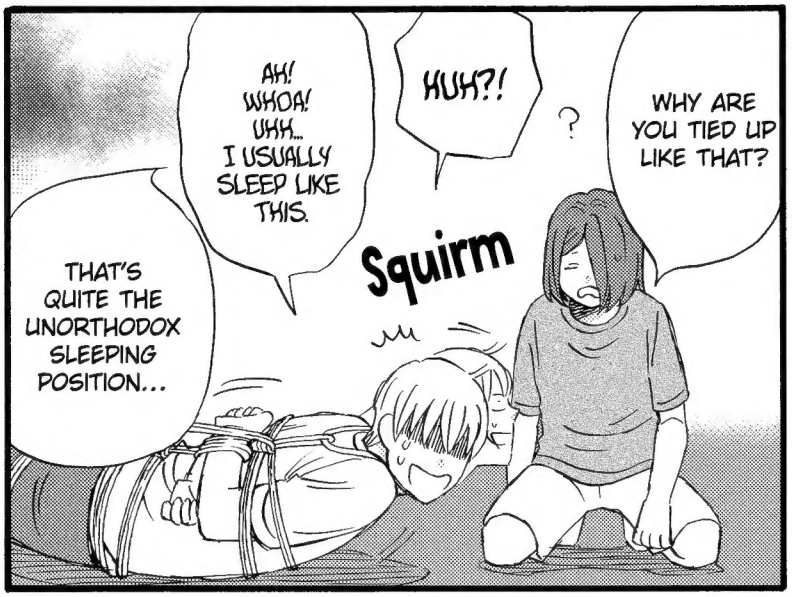

SOMEHOW, I COULDN'T REFUSE HIM. BUT WHEN I FINALLY CAME TO MY SENSES...
UGHH... ISHIMURA-SAN WOULD NEVER CONSENT TO THAT...
HE MUST'VE DRUGGED HER...


...
-SAN... SHIMA-SAN!

MIYAKE-KUN...?
MI...

KIRISHIMA-SAN!

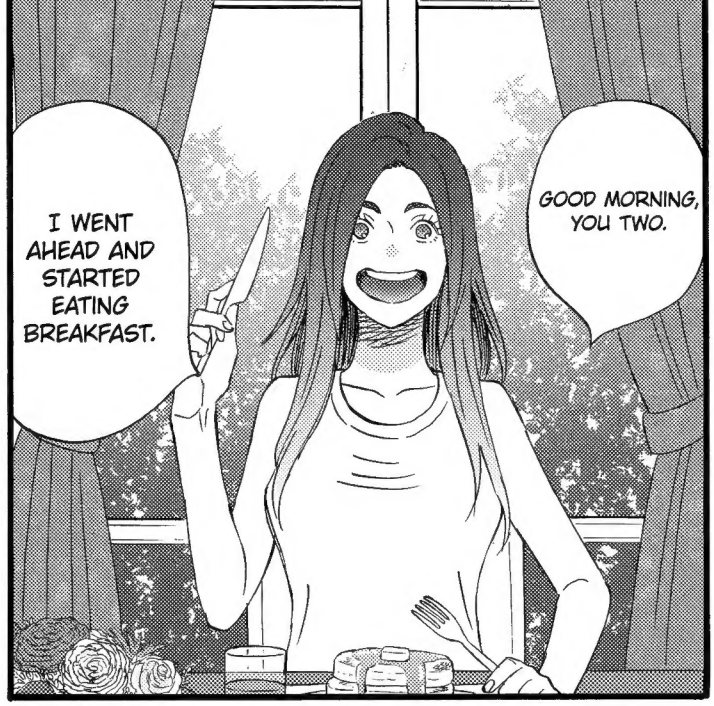
...Do you sleepwalk, Kirishi-ma-san...?
Can you untie me, please?
Are you okay?


AH! WHOA! UHH... I USUALLY SLEEP LIKE THIS.
HUH?!
?
WHY ARE YOU TIED UP LIKE THAT?
THAT'S QUITE THE UNORTHODOX SLEEPING POSITION...
Squirm

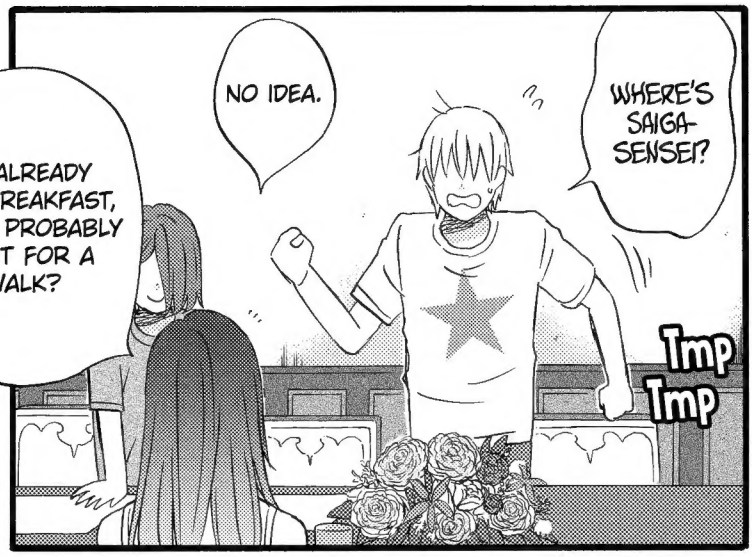
G-GOOD MORNING.
Blam
ISHIMURA-SAN!!
...He sure is lively...

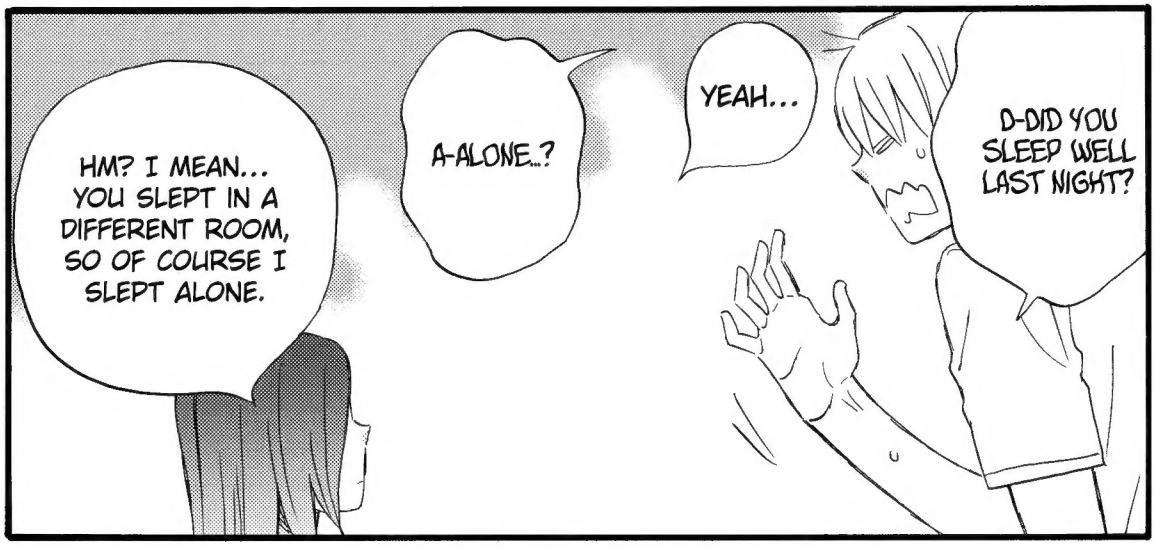
Ah!
ISHIMURA-SAN...!!
WE SHOULD GO TO THE DINING ROOM.
I WAS TOLD IT'S TIME FOR BREAKFAST.

...HUH?
Glance
Glance

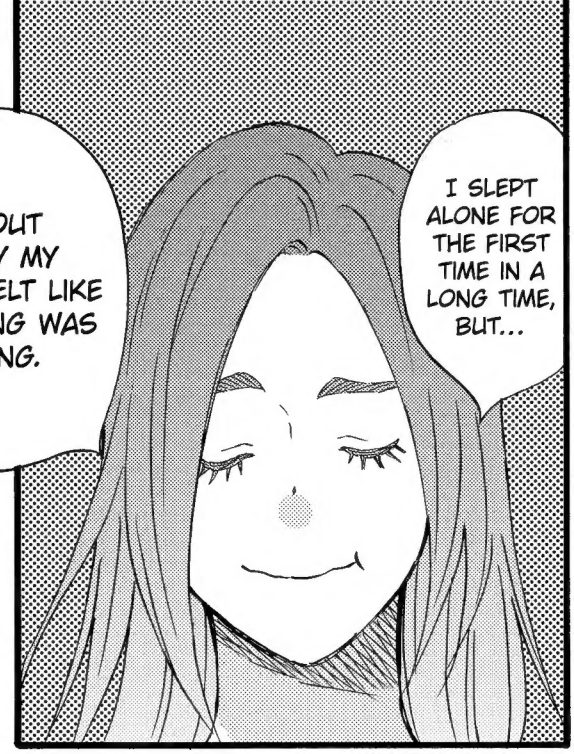

GOOD MORNING, YOU TWO.
I WENT AHEAD AND STARTED EATING BREAKFAST.

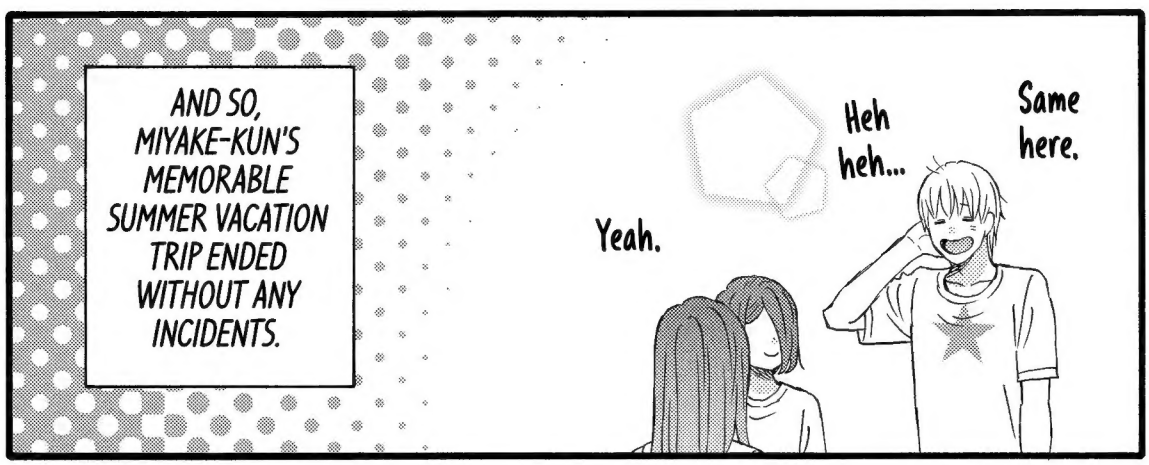
DID NOTHING... ACTUALLY HAPPEN?
HE'S DOING HIS OWN THING...

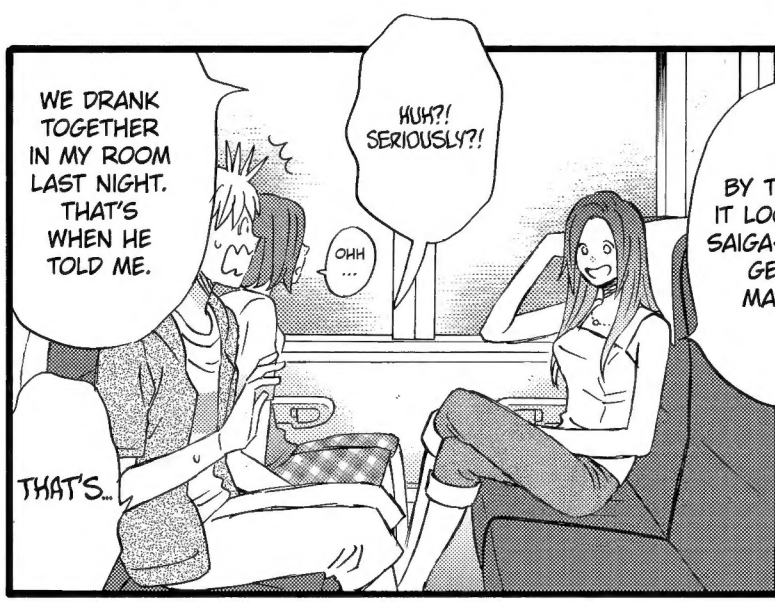

WHERE'S SAIGA-SENSEI?
NO IDEA.
HE ALREADY HAD BREAKFAST, SO HE PROBABLY WENT FOR A WALK?
Tmp
Tmp


D-DID YOU SLEEP WELL LAST NIGHT?
YEAH...
A-ALONE...?
HM? I MEAN... YOU SLEPT IN A DIFFERENT ROOM, SO OF COURSE I SLEPT ALONE.

WITHOUT YOU BY MY SIDE, IT FELT LIKE SOMETHING WAS MISSING.


I SLEPT ALONE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME, BUT...


AND SO, MIYAKE-KUN'S MEMORABLE SUMMER VACATION TRIP ENDED WITHOUT ANY INCIDENTS.
Yeah.
Heh heh...
Same here.

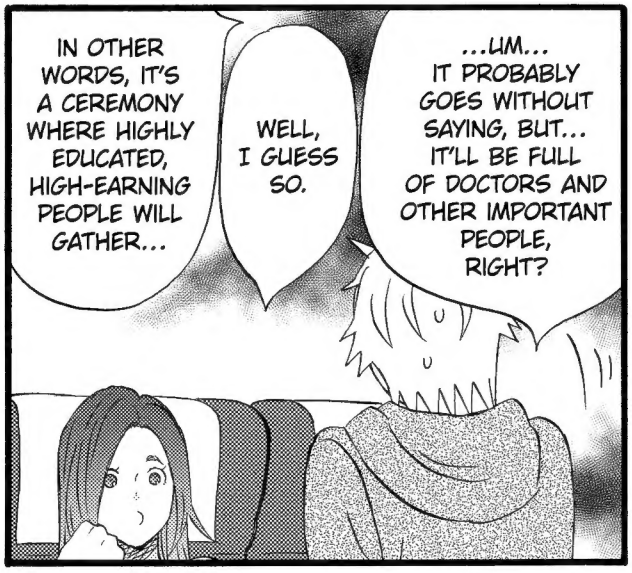

WE DRANK TOGETHER IN MY ROOM LAST NIGHT. THAT'S WHEN HE TOLD ME.
THAT'S...
HUH?! SERIOUSLY?!
OHH ...

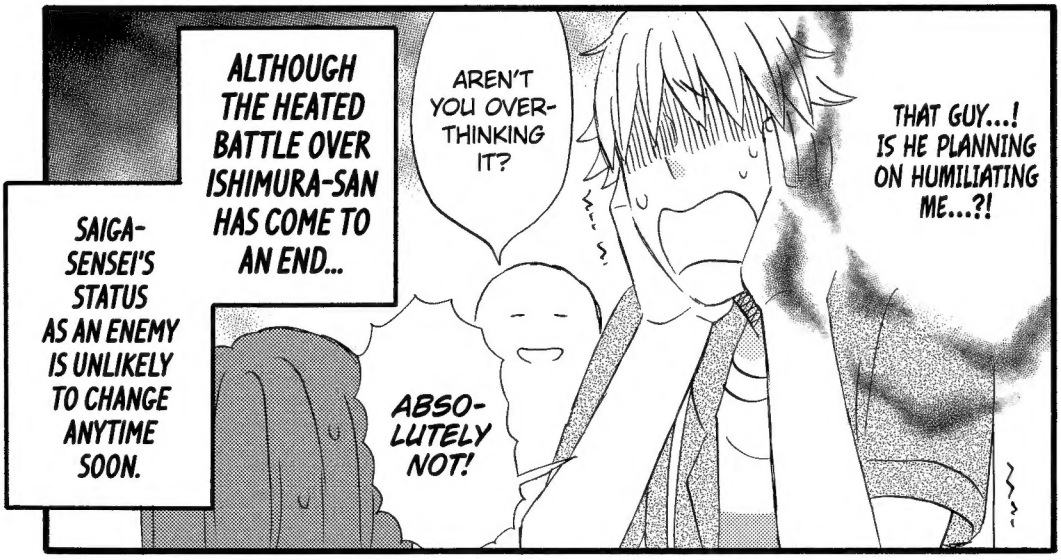
BY THE WAY, IT LOOKS LIKE SAIGA-SENSEI'S GETTING MARRIED.
Ktunk
Thunk

HE ALSO SAID THAT HE WANTS THE TWO OF US TO COME TO HIS WEDDING CEREMONY.

Yaaaay!
Yay!
WOOOW! I'M SO HAPPY!
Yay!
SUPER GOOD NEWS!
...I SERIOUSLY CAN'T TELL IF YOU GUYS GET ALONG WELL OR NOT...

SO WHAT EXACTLY IS A GUY WHO WAS LAID-OFF, HAD HIS GIRLFRIEND DUMP HIM, AND THEN HIT THE JACKPOT BY MARRYING YOU SUPPOSED TO BE DOING THERE?
YOU CERTAINLY DON'T THINK HIGHLY OF YOURSELF.


IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S A CEREMONY WHERE HIGHLY EDUCATED, HIGH-EARNING PEOPLE WILL GATHER...
WELL, I GUESS SO.
...UM... IT PROBABLY GOES WITHOUT SAYING, BUT... IT'LL BE FULL OF DOCTORS AND OTHER IMPORTANT PEOPLE, RIGHT?


ALTHOUGH THE HEATED BATTLE OVER ISHIMURA-SAN HAS COME TO AN END...
SAIGA-SENSEI'S STATUS AS AN ENEMY IS UNLIKELY TO CHANGE ANYTIME SOON.
AREN'T YOU OVER-THINKING IT?
ABSO-LUTELY NOT!
THAT GUY...! IS HE PLANNING ON HUMILIATING ME...?!